

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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R 250735Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1311

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

UNCLAS TAIPEI 1841

USIAC

FOR: IOR/MEDIA REACTION; IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT

1. SUMMARY - CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY, UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES CARRIED SLIGHTLY DIFFERING ACCOUNTS OF AMBASSADOR UNGER'S WASHINGTON INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE REPORTEDLY PLEDGED TO CONTINUE NIXON ADMINISTRATION POLICIES OF FRIENDSHIP AND CLOSE TIES WITH ROC AND AGAIN REAFFIRMED U.S. COMMITMENTS.

2. CNA REPORTED THAT WHEN UNGER WAS INFORMED THAT HIS STATEMENT DURING SENATE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS EXPRESSING HOPES THAT THE TENSIONS AND SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH GAVE RISE TO THE 1954 TREATY WERE SUBSIDING HAD BEEN INTERPRETED AS AN INDICATION THAT THE U.S. IS TRYING TO DISENGAGE FROM ITS INVOLVEMENT IN TAIWAN, UNGER REPORTEDLY REGRETTED THAT INTERPRETATION. HE REMINDED CNA OF REPEATED NIXON ADMINISTRATION ASSURANCES TO THE ROC GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD.

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3. BOTH UNITED DAILY NEWS AND CHINA TIMES STRESSED UNGER'S

REMARKS THAT HE SAW NO INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT THAT WOULD CHANGE U.S. COMMITMENTS TO ROC. UNGER REPORTEDLY SAID U.S. DETENTE EFFORTS IN PROMOTING CULTURAL AND TRADE EXCHANGES BETWEEN WASHINGTON AND PEIPING WERE NOT MEANT TO SACRIFICE CLOSE AND FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIPS WITH ROC. HE SAID HIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD HALT SPECULATION THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE U.S. TRADE CENTER IN TAIPEI WOULD REDUCE SINO-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIPS TO A "PARA-DIPLOMATIC LEVEL."

4. ASKED IF SECRETARY KISSINGER WILL PAY A VISIT TO THE ROC, UNGER REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT KISSINGER VISITS THOSE PLACES WITH SPECIAL PROBLEMS. SINCE THINGS ARE GOING SMOOTHLY IN TAIPEI-WASHINGTON RELATIONS, HE THOUGHT KISSINGER PROBABLY TOOK IT AS A REASON NOT TO VISIT TAIPEI. BUT UNGER SAID HE COULD NOT KNOW WHAT IS IN KISSINGER'S OWN MIND.

5. UNGER SAID HE MADE MANY CHINESE FRIENDS WHILE SERVING IN THAILAND AND LAOS, INCLUDING FOREIGN MINISTER SHEN AND DR. HAN LI-WU, DIRECTOR OF ROC'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE AND ONE-TIME ROC ENVOY TO THAILAND. UNGER SAID HE PLANNED TO REACH TAIPEI IN LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY AFTER MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR MCCONAUGHY IN WASHINGTON; MRS. UNGER WOULD JOIN HIM ABOUT A MONTH LATER. CLARKE

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